



Mom Knew Best.

Melinda Stepanski-Lvovsky (M.A. '05)
6-8th Grade Humanities Teacher

Why I Support TC's Students

When I asked my mother why she became a teacher, she quoted Emerson: "We will walk on our own feet; we will work with our own hands; we will speak our own minds." She empowered students, many from challenging backgrounds, through reading and writing. Now I appreciate why teaching gave her so much joy.

My Philosophy of Teaching

At TC, I took Shakespeare with John Browne. John's ability to make The Bard's abstruse texts accessible was remarkable. His devotion to his students, and his sonorous laugh, were exceptional.

What I Learned at TC

The classes were illuminating. Conversations with peers about helping students maximize their potential still resonate. TC faculty's exemplary guidance of my learning journey will forever inform my teaching.

Proudest Accomplishment

Every day, I am proud to tell people I am a teacher.

TC Gift

The Stepanski Family Charitable Trust's endowed scholarship – matched dollar-for-dollar by TC – honors the late Jane Stepanski: "Mom was a partner in my father's business successes and a lodestar to my brother, Matthew, Dad and me."

S U P P O R T o u r S T U D E N T S

*You, too, can support TC's students.
Contact Linda Colquhoun
at 212-678-3679
or visit tc.edu/supportstudents*

Melinda Stepanski-Lvovsky and her father, Tony Stepanski, at the American Academy of Arts & Letters, where Melinda worked on her undergraduate thesis on writer Willa Cather

Photo: Bruce Gilbert





[A QUIET INSPIRATION]

Farewell to a Fine Gentleman

The TC community salutes its constant gardener, the late **Jack Hyland**

Teachers College lost its most cherished statesman in August — Jack Hyland, Board Co-Chair, 30-year Trustee, Renaissance spirit and the man described by President Susan Fuhrman as “our constant gardener, cultivating excellence across our vast enterprise.” ■ John W. Hyland Jr., forged successful careers in investment banking and as a media adviser. He was a celebrated author, professional photographer and art enthusiast — Chairman Emeritus of the American Academy in Rome, Director of the College Art Association and Trustee of the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts. Fuhrman’s metaphor was particularly apt: The stunning oasis of grasses, bamboos, pools and paths that Hyland and his partner, Larry Wenthe, maintained at their weekend home

in Millerton, New York — “the place of your heart,” Hyland’s son, Jonathan, said at a TC memorial celebration in September — is listed in The Garden Conservancy. ■ At TC, which awarded him its Cleveland E. Dodge Medal for Distinguished Service to Education, Hyland aided two presidential searches and historic fundraising campaigns. He championed the College’s advances in digital education, financial literacy education and learning technology. ■ Hyland’s colleagues, friends and family especially valued his ability to bring people together. Provost Tom James recalled once dining with Hyland, Professor Gary Natriello and Trustee Emeritus Elliot Jaffe. “The waitress wrote on the check, ‘Thank you, my fine gentlemen,’” James said. “Jack, the whole community is rising up now to say: ‘Thank you, my fine gentleman.’”

In Their Own Words

Reflections and memories of Jack Hyland from TC's leaders, Trustees, faculty members and his children

Joyce Cowin

**TC TRUSTEE, FOUNDER
OF THE COWIN FINANCIAL
LITERACY PROGRAM**

"I have never seen this auditorium look so beautiful — and it's for the right person. Like the eclipse we recently experienced, Jack was a singular sensation. Each of us was lucky to be in his orbit."

Susan Fuhrman

**PRESIDENT,
TEACHERS COLLEGE**

"Jack never gave less than his best to TC, and everyone who came in contact with him wanted to do better and be better. I was privileged to call him my boss, friend and mentor, and I will love him for the rest of my days."

ELYSIAN FIELDS Hyland's garden in Millerton, New York



Susannah Hyland

DAUGHTER

"You were a tenacious man. You were as tender as a plant laughing at the sun."

Paul LeClerc

**TC TRUSTEE, PAST PRESIDENT
AND CEO OF THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

"His board involvements were the figurative counterpart to the garden that he and Larry cultivated. It's sweet to think of him going to the Elysian Fields, reserved for the righteous and heroic. You can imagine just what Jack is up to there."

Bill Rueckert

**CHAIR,
TEACHERS COLLEGE BOARD**

"He had the most amazing Rolodex, mostly in his head. This room is full today because of Jack, but it feels empty without him."

Tom James

TC PROVOST AND DEAN

"One faculty member recalled talking to him about the constellation of the arts and humanities programs at TC. Jack recognized this great taproot in our history. But the astonishing thing is that he had the same understanding of us in other areas."



DYNAMIC DUO Hyland and Cowin

Liza Bainbridge

DAUGHTER

"I will think of you every time I need advice and reassurance that the world isn't going to end."

Marie Miville

**PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY
& EDUCATION**

"I consider myself lucky to have served as a faculty member during his tenure. I especially appreciate Jack's long-time support of diversity issues and psychology at TC."

Michael Rebell

**PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE AND
DIRECTOR OF TC'S CENTER FOR
EDUCATIONAL EQUITY**

"He was an inspiration — someone with whom I could brainstorm to great profit — and a great supporter of everything that I and my col-

leagues were trying to do.”

Lucy Calkins

**ROBINSON PROFESSOR IN
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE**

“Like so many faculty members at TC, I knew Jack as a quiet adviser and constant supporter. He was always ready to offer a warm, kind bit of encouragement, to ask for my insights.”

Eduardo Martí

**TC TRUSTEE, FORMER CUNY
VICE CHANCELLOR FOR
COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

“He guided the Board in a collegial manner and left the College in much better shape than he found it. His warm personality, quick wit and keen intellect will be with us forever.”

MENTOR AND FRIEND

Fuhrman prized Hyland's inspiration



[TEAM PLAYER]

A Passionate Institutionalists

Abby M. O'Neill had a knack for helping great enterprises achieve their missions

The photo on the next page of Abby M. O'Neill and her family on China's Great Wall in 1981 reflects the late TC Trustee Emerita's approach to life. ■ The scion of perhaps America's foremost family of business and philanthropy — she was the great-granddaughter of TC Trustee John D. Rockefeller and spent years heading the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) — Abby O'Neill, as her son, Peter O'Neill, puts it, “believed in understanding other people's lives and perspectives.” That view made the elder O'Neill, who died in May at 89, an “institutionalist” par excellence. “She saw the value of tending to organizations so they could adapt to confront the challenges of the times,” Peter O'Neill says. ■ In addition



Comrades - China June 1981

A Passionate Institutionalist, continued

to serving on TC's board since 2004, Abby O'Neill was Chairman of Rockefeller Financial Services and Rockefeller & Company (1998-2004), Trustee of Massachusetts Financial Services Mutual Fund (1992-2003), President of Greenacre Foundation, Vice Chairman of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and a 60-year Trustee of International House New York. ■ "She was the master at getting things done within the board environment," says TC Board Chair Bill Rueckert. "She'd traveled everywhere, met an incredible number of people and could distill complex issues to their essentials. She had a knack for steering organizations toward good decisions." ■ Abby's experiences representing RBF in post-Soviet Eastern Europe convinced her that "education is the secret to it all." With George O'Neill, her husband of 67 years, she endowed TC's George & Abby O'Neill Chair in Economics & Education and supported many student scholarships. In 2013, her \$11 million gift established the Abby O'Neill Fellows, enabling dedicated pre-service teaching candidates to graduate with a minimum of debt. ■ "For Abby, it was about the students," says Rueckert. "She loved meeting young people and hearing their plans. It gave her pleasure to know that people were benefiting from her gifts."

A GIFT FOR GIFTING

"For Abby, it was about the students. She loved meeting young people and hearing their plans. It gave her pleasure to know that people were benefiting from her gifts."

— Bill Rueckert, Chair, Teachers College Board

The O'Neill Fellowships

For Teachers Committed to NYC

Trustee Emerita **Abby M. O'Neill**, who visited the People's Republic of China during the 1980s and post-Soviet Eastern Europe a decade later, believed that the future of democratic societies depends on education. Her \$11 million gift launched Teachers College's **Abby M. O'Neill Fellowships**, enabling qualified, committed teaching students to graduate as free from debt as possible. ■ "The Abby M. O'Neill Fellowship program is a very important investment in tomorrow's teachers," says Suzanne M. Murphy, Teachers College's Vice President for Development & External Affairs. "We expect the most extraordinary students, who are committed to teaching in New York City, to compete to receive the O'Neill Fellowships." ■ A pilot program has already graduated 24 students — including Sarah Duer, a second grade teacher at the recently founded 30th Avenue School in Astoria, Queens. Duer says she is grateful for a "magical" opportunity to "create a vision" at a new school. Now TC is poised to launch an expanded program that will support the certification of teachers who are committed to working in New York City. To apply for an Abby M. O'Neill Fellowship, contact Teachers College's Office of Financial Aid at 212-678-3714 or financialaid@tc.edu.

INTENDED RECIPIENTS Abby M. O'Neill with O'Neill Fellows Bonnie Chow and Kimberly Iwanski



PHOTOGRAPHS: ABOVE, COURTESY OF PETER O'NEILL; RIGHT, TC ARCHIVES